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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/895,561	06/29/2001	Niraj Gopal	CISCO-3475	6931

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EXAMINER

LE, DIEU MINH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2114

DATE MAILED: 05/14/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/895,561

**Applicant(s)**

GOPAL, NIRAJ

**Examiner**

Dieu-Minh Le

**Art Unit**

2114



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE \_\_\_\_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2002.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

**Part III DETAILED ACTION**

**Specification**

1. Claims 1-28 are presented for examination.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wanderer et al. (US Patent 5,491,796 hereafter referred to as Wanderer).

**As per claim 1:**

Wanderer explicitly teaches:

- A method for checking the level of manageability support of a network device (i.e., SNMP) [fig. 1, abstract, col. 1, lines 9-11, col. 2, lines 31-36, and col. 14, lines 41-42], comprising of:

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- identifying a variable to be checked (i.e., MIB variables via GET function) [col. 14, lines 41-42, col. 17, lines 20-30, and col. 34, lines 50-53];
- reading a value for the variable from the network device [col. 1, lines 31-49, col. 2, lines 59-61, col. 24, lines 44-54, and col. 34, lines 50-53];
- determining whether there is a VALID values list for the variable [col. 14, lines 42-43], when there is a VALID values list, comparing [col. 21, lines 30-36, col. 26, lines 36-46, and col. 27, lines 45-53] the returned value [col. 25, lines 9-19] from the network device with the listed value [col. 9, lines 21-29 and col. 19, lines 21-13] for a match and when values do not match [col. 14, lines 41-45 and col. 27, lines 45-54], outputting an error message for the variable [col. 14, lines 50-51];
- determining whether there is a INVALID values list for the variable [col. 14, lines 42-43], when there is a INVALID values list, comparing [col. 21, lines 30-36, col. 26, lines 36-46, and col. 27, lines 45-53] the returned value [col. 25, lines 9-19] from the network device with the listed value [col. 9, lines 21-29 and col. 19, lines 21-13] for a match and when values do not match [col. 14,

lines 41-45 and col. 27, lines 45-54], outputting an error message for the variable [col. 14, lines 50-51].

As per claim 2:

Wanderer further explicitly teaches:

- determining that the variable has a dependent variables (i.e., SNMP MIB, MIB attributes, community string, associated variables, reference variables, local variables, dependence elements, dependent data) [col. 2, lines 35-63, col. 20, lines 42-46, col. 28, lines 46-49, col. 29, lines 51-53, col. 33, lines 29-39, and col. 37, lines 60-64];
- identifying the dependent variable to be checked (i.e., MIB variables via GET function, SNMP MIB, MIB attributes, community string, associated variables, reference variables, local variables, dependence elements, dependent data) [col. 14, lines 41-42, col. 17, lines 20-30, col. 28, lines 46-49, col. 29, lines 51-53, col. 33, lines 29-39, and col. 34, lines 50-53];
- reading a value for both the variable and the dependent variable from the network device [col. 1, lines 31-49, col. 2, lines 59-61, col. 24, lines 44-54, col. 28, lines 46-49, col. 29, lines 51-53, col. 33, lines 29-39, and col. 34, lines 50-53];

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- determining whether there is a VALID values list for the variable [col. 14, lines 42-43], when there is a VALID values list, comparing [col. 21, lines 30-36, col. 26, lines 36-46, and col. 27, lines 45-53] the returned value [col. 25, lines 9-19] from the network device with the listed value [col. 9, lines 21-29 and col. 19, lines 21-13] for a match and when values do not match [col. 14, lines 41-45 and col. 27, lines 45-54], outputting an error message for the variable [col. 14, lines 50-51];

- determining whether there is a INVALID values list for the variable [col. 14, lines 42-43], when there is a INVALID values list, comparing [col. 21, lines 30-36, col. 26, lines 36-46, and col. 27, lines 45-53] the returned value [col. 25, lines 9-19] from the network device with the listed value [col. 9, lines 21-29 and col. 19, lines 21-13] for a match and when values do not match [col. 14, lines 41-45 and col. 27, lines 45-54], outputting an error message for the variable [col. 14, lines 50-51].

As per claims 3 and 4:

Wanderer further explicitly teaches:

- determining that there is a configure request for the variable [col. 10, lines 19-20 and col. 14, lines 34-40];

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- reading a new value for the variable device [col. 1, lines 31-49, col. 2, lines 59-61, col. 24, lines 44-54, and col. 34, lines 50-53];
- configuring the variable with the new value in the device being checked (i.e., MIB variables via GET function) [col. 14, lines 41-42, col. 17, lines 20-30, and col. 34, lines 50-53];
- determining whether the configure request was successful [col. 14, lines 46-48];
- when the configure request is not successful [col. 14, lines 46-48], outputting an error message and ending for the variable [col. 14, lines 50-51];
- when the configure request is successful [col. 14, lines 46-48], determining whether there is at least one associated variable (i.e., SNMP MIB, MIB attributes, community string, associated variables, reference variables, local variables, dependence elements, dependent data) [col. 2, lines 35-63, col. 20, lines 42-46, col. 28, lines 46-49, col. 29, lines 51-53, col. 33, lines 29-39, and col. 37, lines 60-64].
- when there is not at least one associated variable, ending the check for the variable (i.e., disabling,

discontinuity) [col. 35, lines 8-15 and col. 37, lines 39-44];

- when there is at least one associated variable, identifying the at least one associated variable [col. 1, lines 31-49, col. 2, lines 59-61, col. 24, lines 44-54, and col. 34, lines 50-53];

- reading a value for the at least one associated variable (i.e., SNMP MIB, MIB attributes, community string, associated variables, reference variables, local variables, dependence elements, dependent data) [col. 2, lines 35-63, col. 20, lines 42-46, col. 28, lines 46-49, col. 29, lines 51-53, col. 33, lines 29-39, and col. 37, lines 60-64] from the network device [col. 1, lines 31-49, col. 2, lines 59-61, col. 24, lines 44-54, and col. 34, lines 50-53] after sleeping for a predetermined period of time [col. 14, lines 55-56 and col. 39, lines 24-36];

- determining whether there is a VALID values list for the at least one associated variable [col. 14, lines 42-43], when there is a VALID values list, comparing [col. 21, lines 30-36, col. 26, lines 36-46, and col. 27, lines 45-53] the returned value [col. 25, lines 9-19] from the network device with the listed value [col. 9, lines 21-29 and col. 19, lines 21-13] for a match and when values do



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not match [col. 14, lines 41-45 and col. 27, lines 45-54],  
outputting an error message for the variable [col. 14,  
lines 50-51];

- determining whether there is a INVALID values list for  
the at least one associated variable [col. 14, lines 42-  
43], when there is a INVALID values list, comparing [col.  
21, lines 30-36, col. 26, lines 36-46, and col. 27, lines  
45-53] the returned value [col. 25, lines 9-19] from the  
network device with the listed value [col. 9, lines 21-29  
and col. 19, lines 21-13] for a match and when values do  
not match [col. 14, lines 41-45 and col. 27, lines 45-54],  
outputting an error message for the variable [col. 14,  
lines 50-51].

This is clearly shown that Wanderer's teaching capabilities  
are corresponding to Applicant's invention.

As per claims 5 and 6:

Claims 5 and 6 are similar to claims 2-3. Therefore, these  
claims are also rejected under the same rationale applied  
against claims 2-3. In addition, all of the limitations have  
been noted in the rejection as per claims 2-3.

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As per claim 7:

Claim 7 is similar to claim 6. Therefore, these claims are also rejected under the same rationale applied against claim 6. In addition, all of the limitations have been noted in the rejection as per claim 6.

As per claims 8-11:

These claims are the same as per claims 1-4. The only minor different is that these claims are directed to a **computer-readable medium** instead of the method for checking the level of manageability support of the network device as described in claims 1-4. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to realize that the **computer-readable medium** is a necessary item for network management system, more specifically, for data management via SNMP MIB capability. Since the communication network management system obviously needs a means for instruction or code means resided within the computer-readable storage medium for performing the data checking, validating, storing, receiving, transmitting operation via the SNMP and other capabilities. Therefore, these claims are also rejected under the same rationale applied against claims 1-4.

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As per claims 12-13:

These claims are the same as per claims 5-6. The only minor different is that these claims are directed to a **computer-readable medium** instead of the method for checking the level of manageability support of the network device as described in claims 5-6. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to realize that the **computer-readable medium** is a necessary item for network management system, more specifically, for data management via SNMP MIB capability. Since the communication network management system obviously needs a means for instruction or code means resided within the computer-readable storage medium for performing the data checking, validating, storing, receiving, transmitting operation via the SNMP and other capabilities. Therefore, these claims are also rejected under the same rationale applied against claims 5-6.

As per claim 14:

This claim is the same as per claim 7. The only minor different is that this claim is directed to a **computer-readable medium** instead of the method for checking the level of manageability support of the network device as described in claim 7. However, it would have been obvious to one having

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to realize that the **computer-readable medium** is a necessary item for network management system, more specifically, for data management via SNMP MIB capability. Since the communication network management system obviously needs a means for instruction or code means resided within the computer-readable storage medium for performing the data checking, validating, storing, receiving, transmitting operation via the SNMP and other capabilities. Therefore, this claim is also rejected under the same rationale applied against claim 7.

As per claims 15-18:

Due to the similarity of claims 15-18 to claims 1-4 except for an apparatus for checking the level of manageability support of the network device means (i.e., identifying means, reading means, determining means, etc...) instead of a method for checking the level of manageability support of the network device steps (i.e., identifying steps, reading steps, determining steps, etc...); therefore, these claims are also rejected under the same rationale applied against claims 1-4. **In addition, all of the limitations have been noted in the rejection as per claims 1-4.**

As per claims 19-20:

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Due to the similarity of claims 19-20 to claims 5-6 except for an apparatus for checking the level of manageability support of the network device means (i.e., identifying means, reading means, determining means, etc...) instead of a method for checking the level of manageability support of the network device steps (i.e., identifying steps, reading steps, determining steps, etc...); therefore, these claims are also rejected under the same rationale applied against claims 5-6. **In addition, all of the limitations have been noted in the rejection as per claims 5-6.**

As per claims 21:

Due to the similarity of claim 21 to claim 7 except for an apparatus for checking the level of manageability support of the network device means (i.e., identifying means, reading means, determining means, etc...) instead of a method for checking the level of manageability support of the network device steps (i.e., identifying steps, reading steps, determining steps, etc...); therefore, this claim is also rejected under the same rationale applied against claim 7. **In addition, all of the limitations have been noted in the rejection as per claim 7.**

As per claims 22-25:

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Due to the similarity of claims 22-25 to claims 1-4 except for an apparatus for checking the level of manageability support of the network device (i.e., identifying the variable, obtaining a value for variable, checking the VALID/INVALID value, generating error message, etc...) instead of a method for checking the level of manageability support of the network device steps (i.e., identifying the variable, reading value for variable, determining VALID/INVALID value, generating error message, etc...); therefore, these claims are also rejected under the same rationale applied against claims 1-4. **In addition, all of the limitations have been noted in the rejection as per claims 1-4.**

As per claims 26-27:

Due to the similarity of claims 26-27 to claims 5-6 except for an apparatus for checking the level of manageability support of the network device (i.e., identifying the variable, obtaining a value for variable, checking the VALID/INVALID value, generating error message, etc...) instead of a method for checking the level of manageability support of the network device steps (i.e., identifying the variable, reading value for variable, determining VALID/INVALID value, generating error message, etc...); therefore, these claims are also rejected under the same

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rationale applied against claims 5-6. In addition, all of the limitations have been noted in the rejection as per claims 5-6.

As per claims 28:

Due to the similarity of claim 28 to claim 7 except for an apparatus for checking the level of manageability support of the network device (i.e., identifying the variable, obtaining a value for variable, checking the VALID/INVALID value, generating error message, etc...) instead of a method for checking the level of manageability support of the network device steps (i.e., identifying the variable, reading value for variable, determining VALID/INVALID value, generating error message, etc...); therefore, this claim is also rejected under the same rationale applied against claim 7. In addition, all of the limitations have been noted in the rejection as per claim 7.

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Conclusion

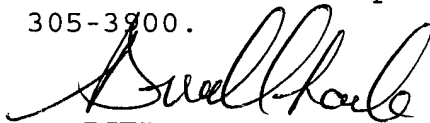
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expired THREE (3) months, ZERO days from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to be abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dieu-Minh Le whose telephone number is (703) 305-9408. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Beausoliel, can be reached on (703)305-9713. The fax phone number for this Group is (703)872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

  
DIEU-MINH THAI LE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2114

DML  
5/2/04